ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

More Speak English Like an American Review for Lessons 21-25 Idioms and Expressions MCQ Test

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11	**C**	12	**C**	13	**A**	14	**C**	15	**A**										

Explanations

1. **Fill in the blank with the missing word or words:**

This apple pie is so good. It just _____ in your mouth.
✔ **A) melts**
The idiom **melt in your mouth** describes food that is so soft and delicious it seems to dissolve as you eat it: **These cookies just melt in your mouth.** Not **disappears**, because that is not the fixed expression.

2. Why would John get married now? He's having too much fun playing the _____.
✔ **C) field**
Play the field means to date many different people instead of staying with one partner. That is why John doesn't want to get married yet.

3. Let's invite some clients to play golf with us on Friday. We can play on the company _____.
✔ **C) dime**
On the company dime means the company pays for it: **We had dinner on the company dime.** The idiom always uses **dime**, never **penny** or **nickel**.

4. We've got a new salesperson starting on Monday. Please show her the _____.
✔ **A) ropes**
Show someone the ropes means to teach a new person how a job or place works: **Tom will show you the ropes on your first day.** Not **strings**, because that is not part of the idiom.

5. Our waiter spent most of the evening shooting the _____ with a pretty woman at the table next to ours.
✔ **B) breeze**
Shoot the breeze means to chat casually about unimportant things: **We sat on the porch shooting the breeze.** Not **wind**, even though a breeze is a kind of wind, because the idiom is fixed.

6. Jake's parents hit the _____ when they found out he had a big party at the house while they were away on vacation.
✔ **A) roof**
Hit the roof means to become very angry suddenly. Jake's parents were furious about the party. Not **hit the hay**, which means to go to bed.

7. Doug is trying to cash in _____ the success of his Harry Potter website by publishing a book with similar content.
✔ **C) on**
Cash in on something means to make money or gain an advantage from it: **The company cashed in on the new trend.** The phrasal verb always takes **on**.

8. We have a new finance director _____ on board next Monday.
✔ **B) coming**
Come on board means to join a company, team or project: **She's coming on board as our new manager.** Not **going**, because the person is joining us, so we use **come**.

9. The salesman said, "Your new cell phone plan will start as soon as you sign on the _____ line."
✔ **B) dotted**
Sign on the dotted line means to sign a contract or formally agree to something. Forms often show the place for your signature as a line of dots.

10. Telco's strategy of expanding quickly overseas is right on the _____.
✔ **A) money**
Right on the money means exactly right or correct: **Your guess was right on the money.** Not **cash** or **dime**, because the idiom always uses **money**.

11. Angela is the star of her high school play, the captain of the soccer team, and the president of her class. Her parents think she's spread herself too _____.
✔ **C) thin**
Spread yourself too thin means to try to do too many things at once, so you can't do any of them well. Angela has the play, the soccer team and class president. Not **wide**, because the idiom uses **thin**.

12. Discussing politics at the workplace is _____ with fire.
✔ **C) playing**
Play with fire means to do something risky that could get you into trouble: **Lying to your boss is playing with fire.** Not **toying**, because the fixed idiom uses **playing**.

13. Brian sent in his application to Harvard Business School last month. Now the ball's in their _____.
✔ **A) court**
The ball's in their court means it is now their turn to act or decide. Brian has sent his application, so Harvard must respond. The idiom comes from tennis, so it uses **court**.

14. Hopefully our company's creative new advertising campaign will give us a leg _____ on our competitors.
✔ **C) up**
A leg up on someone means an advantage over them: **Speaking Chinese gives her a leg up on other candidates.** Not **over**, because the idiom is **a leg up**, even though **advantage over** is common.

15. The 2006 remake of All the King's Men pales _____ comparison to the original film.

✓ **A) in**

Pale in comparison (to/with) means to seem much less good or important when compared with something else: **My cooking pales in comparison to my mother's.** The fixed preposition before **comparison** is **in**.

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